Category Status is given to those States which are predominantly of hilly terrain with large tribal population, located on sensitive international border areas, with underdeveloped socio-economic infrastructure, low revenue base & non-viable nature of State's finances and overall economic backwardness.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Special Category States comprise of Arunachal Padesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttranchal.

Golden Quadrilateral project

1950. SHRI BJ. PANDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of the Golden Quadrilateral portion of National Highway Development Project;

(b) what length is already under implementation as on 1st October 2001;

(c) the present status of award of the balance length under this project; and

(d) the total project cost of NHPD (National Highway Development Project) and how much out of that is cost of "Golden Quadrilateral" portion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) The total length of Golden Quadrilateral protion of National Highway Development Project (NHDP) is 5851 km.

(b) An aggregate length of 3803 km. is under implementation as on 1st October 2001.

(c) 705 km. of the balance length is scheduled to be awarded during 2001-2002 and 87 km. during 2002-2003.

(d) The total cost of NHDP at 1999 prices is Rs. 54,000

crores and the cost of Golden Quadrilateral protion is Rs. 25,000 crores (at 2000 prices).

World Bank funding for development of NHs

†1951. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank has provided funds for the development and extension of National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the States where the amount received from World Bank has been utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The World Bank has sanctioned two loans amounting to US $ 516 million and US $ 589 million for Third National Highway project and Grand Trunk Road Improvement project respectively.

(c) The loan will be utilised for strengthening and widening of National Highway-2 to 4-lanes in Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Bihar.

Declaration of National Highways in Karnataka

1952. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the request of the Karnataka Government to declare Bidar-Srirangapatnam, Jewargi-Sankeswar and Kalala-Raichur in Karnataka as National Highways, has been pending for the last two years; and

(b) if "so, by when these roads are likely to be declared as National Highways?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.